

Questions for Gospel Harmony #33 – The Sermon on the Mount (Part 5)

Matthew 5.21-26

Special Question: In Matthew 5.21-48, Jesus repeated says this formula: “You have heard it was said...” then “But I say unto you...” Some suggest that Jesus is comparing Jewish tradition to the correct understanding of the Law of Moses. Others say that Jesus is comparing the Law of Moses to His own teachings. Others say there is a combination of both. Which of these do you believe is accurate, and why?

1. Who were “those of old”? Where did Jesus audience hear “You shall not murder”? What kind of “judgment” were murders in danger of? (Verse 21)
2. What kind of anger is Jesus referring to? Is this the same sort of judgment as mentioned in the previous verse? Define the terms: “raca” and “the council.” How would a disciple of Christ be in danger of the council? Is there a progression of consequences in these verses? If so, why is it worse to call a person “you fool” than to call him “raca”? (Verse 22)
3. Why does Jesus begin verse 23 with “Therefore”? What does it mean to “bring a gift to the altar”? Who is responsible to seek reconciliation in these verses? (Verses 23-24)
4. What does it mean to “agree with your adversary quickly”? What will happen if this instruction is not followed? (Verses 25-26)